Claim Amendments:

1. to 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A controlled release composition comprising

(a) at least one pellet comprising an inner core coated with a rate-controlling membrane, wherein the membrane determines the rate of drug release, and wherein the inner core comprises a salt of a drug; and

(b) means for preventing the release of ~~a~~the drug until the composition reaches ~~a~~the terminal ileum or ~~a~~the colon following oral administration of the composition,

wherein the drug has a free acid group, a pKa in a range of 2.0 to 9.0, and is present in the composition as an alkali metal salt that has a higher solubility at pH 4.5 to 8.0 than a free acid form of the drug.

30. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 29, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of a thromboxane synthase A2 inhibitor and a thromboxane A2/prostaglandin endoperoxide receptor antagonist.

31. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 29, wherein the drug is ridogrel.

32. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 29, wherein the rate-controlling membrane comprises a material which forms a water soluble, water permeable layer and which is capable of releasing the drug by diffusion through the layer.

33. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 32, wherein the rate-controlling membrane is a polymer selected from the group consisting of methacrylate copolymer and ethylcellulose.

34. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 33, wherein the rate-controlling membrane is poly(ethyl acrylate methyl methacrylate) 2:1.

35. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 33, wherein the rate-controlling membrane is ethylcellulose.

36. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 29, wherein the inner core further comprises a sugar sphere.

37. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 29, wherein the inner core has a size in a range of 0.3 mm to 5 mm.

38. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 29, wherein the drug is present as a salt that is at least ten times more soluble than the free acid form of the drug at pH 4.5 to 8.0 at 37°C.

39. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 38, wherein the drug is present as a salt that is at least one hundred times more soluble than the free acid form of the drug at pH 4.5 to 8.0 at 37°C.

40. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 29, wherein the alkali metal salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium salts and potassium salts.

41. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 29, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of drugs used in the treatment of ulcerative colitis, drugs used in the treatment of Crohn's disease, drugs used in the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome, and drugs used in the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease.

42. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 29, wherein means to prevent the release of the drug until the composition reaches the terminal ileum or ~~a~~the colon following oral administration of the composition is a starch capsule coated with a combination of polymethacrylates and the at least one pellet is contained within the starch capsule, and wherein the capsule is designed to disintegrate and release the at least one pellet in the terminal ileum or colon.

43. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 29, wherein the means to prevent the release of the drug until the composition reaches the terminal ileum or ~~a~~the colon following oral administration of the composition is a starch capsule coated with a coating mixture of a first copolymer of methacrylic acid and methacrylate, and a second copolymer of methacrylic acid and methylacrylate, and the at least one pellet is contained within the starch capsule, wherein the capsule is designed to disintegrate and release the at least one pellet in the terminal ileum or colon.

44. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 43, wherein the coating mixture comprises a first copolymer that dissolves at a pH of at least 6 and comprises about 48% of methacrylic acid units per gram of dry weight of the first copolymer, and a second copolymer

that dissolves at a pH of at least 7 and comprises about 29% methacrylic acid units per gram dry weight of the second copolymer.

45. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 44, wherein the first copolymer and the second copolymer are present in the coating mixture in a ratio of 100:0 to 20:80.

46. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 44, wherein the capsule coating has a thickness of the order of 150 μm to 200 μm.

47. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 44, wherein the capsule coating has a thickness of 80 μm to 200 μm.

48. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 29, wherein the at least one pellet is compressed into a tablet, and the tablet is coated with the means to prevent the release of the drug until the composition reaches the terminal ileum or athe colon following oral administration of the composition.

49. (Currently Amended) A controlled release composition comprising at least one pellet comprising an inner core coated with a rate-controlling membrane, wherein the membrane determines the rate of drug release, and wherein the inner core comprises a salt of a drug, wherein the drug has a free acid group, a pKa in the range of 2.0 to 9.0, and is present in the composition as an alkali metal salt that has higher solubility at pH 4.5 to 8.0 than a free acid form of the drug; and wherein the composition prevents release of the drug until the composition reaches the terminal ileum or athe colon following oral administration of the composition.

50. (Currently Amended) A method of making a composition, the composition comprising at least one pellet comprising an inner core and a rate-controlling membrane, wherein the membrane determines the rate of drug release, and means to prevent the release of the drug until the composition reaches the terminal ileum or athe colon following oral administration of the composition, the method comprising:

(a) providing a drug, wherein the drug has a free acid group and a pKa in a range of 2.0 to 9.0;

(b) making an alkali metal salt of the drug, wherein the salt of the drug has a higher solubility at pH 4.5 to 8.0 than a free acid form of the drug;

(c) coating the salt onto the inner core; and

(d) coating the rate-controlling membrane onto the salt.

51. (Previously Added) The method of claim 50, wherein step (a) further comprises making a salt of the drug in a solution and step (b) further comprises coating the salt onto the inner core using the solution of step (a).

52. (Previously Added) The method of claim 50, wherein the salt made in step (a) is recovered in solid form.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the composition is incorporated into a delivery system that prevents drug release until the delivery system reaches the terminal ~~illum~~ileum or colon.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the composition is coated with an enteric layer that dissolves within the small intestine to allow exposure of the membrane to a liquid of the terminal ~~illum~~ileum or colon.

55. (Currently Amended) A method of making a composition, the composition comprising at least one pellet comprising an inner core and a rate-controlling membrane, wherein the membrane determines the rate of drug release~~,~~ and means to prevent the release of the drug until the composition reaches the terminal ileum or ~~a~~the colon following oral administration of the composition, the method comprising:

(a) providing a drug, wherein the drug has a free acid group, and a pKa in a range of 2.0 to 9.0;

(b) making an alkali metal salt of the drug, wherein the salt of the drug has a higher solubility at pH 4.5 to 8.0 that a free acid form of the drug;

(c) coating the salt onto the inner core; and

(d) coating the rate-controlling membrane onto the salt,

wherein the composition prevents release of the drug until the composition reaches the terminal ileum or colon following oral administration of the composition.

56. (Currently Amended) A method of improving the controlled release profile of a drug with a rapidly changing solubility in the pH range of 4.5 to 8.0, the method comprising administering to a patient the drug in a composition, wherein the composition comprises

(a) at least one pellet comprising an inner core coated with a rate-controlling membrane, wherein the membrane determines the rate of drug release, and wherein the inner core comprises a salt of a drug; and

(b) means for preventing the release of a drug until the composition reaches a terminal ileum or athe colon following oral administration of the composition,

wherein the drug has a free acid group, a pKa in a range of 2.0 to 9.0 and is present in the composition as an alkali metal salt that has a higher solubility at pH 4.5 to 8.0 than a free acid form of the drug.

57. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, irritable bowel syndrome, or inflammatory bowel disease, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of treatment a composition containing an effective amount of a drug that is effective in the treatment of ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, irritable bowel syndrome, or inflammatory bowel disease, wherein the composition comprises at least one pellet comprising an inner core coated with a rate-controlling membrane, wherein the membrane determines the rate of drug release, and wherein the inner core comprises a salt of a drug; and means for preventing the release of a drug until the composition reaches the terminal ileum or athe colon following oral administration of the composition, wherein the drug has a free acid group, a pKa in a range of 2.0 to 9.0 and is present in the composition as an alkali metal salt that has a higher solubility at pH 4.5 to 8.0 than a free acid form of the drug.